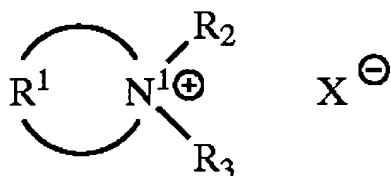


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

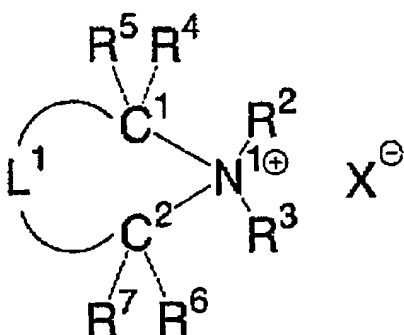
1. (Withdrawn-currently amended): An image forming material comprising, on a substrate, an image forming layer which includes at least (A) a novolac type phenolic resin containing phenol as a structural unit, (B) a photo-thermal converting agent, and (C) a compound represented by the following general-formula (1-1):



General-Formula (1-1)

wherein in general-formula (1-1), R¹ represents a residue which, together with N¹, forms a ring structure; R² and R³ each independently represent an organic group and may combine with each other to form a ring structure; at least one of R² and R³ may combine with R¹ to form a ring structure; and X⁻ represents a conjugate base of an organic acid or an inorganic acid.

2. (Withdrawn-currently amended): ~~An~~The image forming material according to claim 1, wherein the compound represented by ~~general-formula~~ (1-1) is represented by the following ~~general-formula~~ (1-1-a):



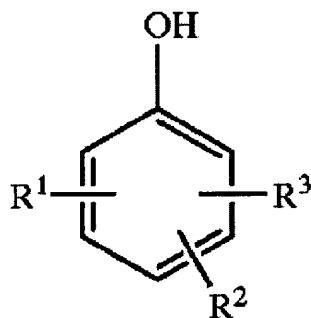
~~General formula~~Formula (1-1-a)

wherein in ~~general-formula~~ (1-1-a), R² and R³ each independently represent an organic group and may combine with each other to form a ring structure; X⁻ represents a conjugate base of an organic acid or an inorganic acid; R⁴ through R⁷ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent, may be the same as or different from one another, and may combine with one another to form a ring; R⁴ through R⁷ may each combine with L¹, R² or R³ to form a ring structure; when a bond between L¹ and C¹ or C² is a double bond or a triple bond, some of R⁴ through R⁷ do/does not exist in accordance with the existence of the double bond or the triple bond; L¹ represents a single bond or a divalent linkage group which, together with -C¹-N¹-C²-, forms a ring structure; R⁴ and R⁵ may represent an identical atom or an identical substituent so that a bond between C¹ and R⁴, which is also R⁵, becomes a double bond; and R⁶

and R^7 may represent an identical atom or an identical substituent so that a bond between C^2 and R^6 , which is also R^7 , becomes a double bond.

3. (Withdrawn-currently amended): ~~An~~ The image forming material according to claim 1, wherein a mass of the compound represented by ~~general~~-formula (1-1) is 50% or less of a mass of a total solids content in the image forming layer.

4. (Withdrawn-currently amended): ~~An~~ The image forming material according to claim 1, wherein the novolac type phenolic resin is a resin obtained by condensing phenol, a substituted phenol represented by the following ~~general~~-formula (I), and an aldehyde:



General Formula (I)

wherein in ~~general~~-formula (I), R^1 and R^2 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or a halogen atom.

5. (Withdrawn-currently amended): ~~An~~The image forming material according to claim 4, wherein a phenol content in monomers that constitute the novolac type phenolic resin is from 21 to 90% by mole.

6. (Withdrawn-currently amended): ~~An~~The image forming material according to claim 4, wherein a weight average molecular weight of the novolac type phenolic resin is from 500 to 50000.

7. (Withdrawn-currently amended): ~~An~~The image forming material according to claim 4, wherein a proportion of the novolac type phenolic resin to a total solids content in the image forming layer is from 0.1 to 20% by mass.

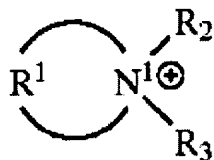
8. (Currently Amended): ~~An~~A positive image forming material comprising, on a substrate, ~~an~~a positive image forming layer which includes at least (A) a novolac type phenolic resin containing phenol as a structural unit, (B) a photo-thermal converting agent, and (C) an onium salt represented by the following ~~general~~ formula (1-2):

~~General formula~~Formula (1-2) X^-M^+

wherein, in ~~general~~ formula (1-2), X^- represents an anion including at least one substituent that has an alkali dissociative proton and M^+ represents a counter cation selected from the group consisting of a sulfonium ion, an iodonium ion, an ammonium ion, a phosphonium ion, and an oxonium ion and

wherein the positive image forming material does not include a crosslinking agent.

9. (Withdrawn-currently amended): ~~An~~ The positive image formation material according to claim 8, wherein M^+ in ~~general-formula~~ (1-2) is represented by the following ~~general-formula~~ (M-I)



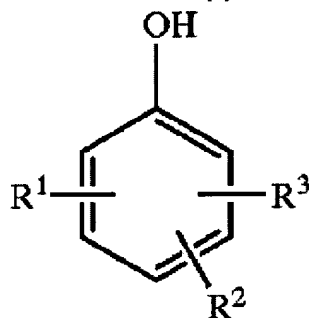
~~General~~ Formula (M-I)

wherein in ~~general-formula~~ (M-1), R¹ represents a residue which, together with N⁺, forms a ring structure; R² and R³ each independently represent an organic group and may combine with each other to form a ring structure; and at least one of R² and R³ may combine with R¹ to form a ring structure.

10. (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The positive image forming material according to claim 8, wherein a mass of the compound represented by ~~general-formula~~ (1-2) is 50% or less of a mass of a total solids content in the image forming layer.

11. (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The positive image forming material according to claim 8, wherein the novolac type phenolic resin is a resin obtained by condensing phenol, a substituted phenol represented by the following ~~general~~ formula (I), and an aldehyde:

~~General~~ Formula (I)



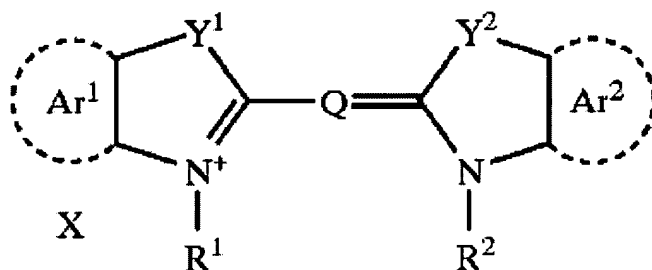
wherein in ~~general~~ formula (I), R¹ and R² each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or a halogen atom and R³ represents an alkyl group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms or a cycloalkyl group having 3 to 6 carbon atoms.

12. (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The positive image forming material according to claim 11, wherein a phenol content in monomers that constitute the novolac type phenolic resin is from 21 to 90% by mole.

13. (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The positive image forming material according to claim 11, wherein a weight average molecular weight of the novolac type phenolic resin is from 500 to 50000.

14. (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The positive image forming material according to claim 11, wherein a proportion of the novolac type phenolic resin to a total solids content in the image forming layer is from 0.1 to 20% by mass.

15. (New): The positive image forming material according to claim 8, wherein the photo-thermal converting agent is represented by the following formula (a):



Formula (a)

wherein in formula (a), R¹ and R² each independently represent an alkyl group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and the alkyl group may have a substituent selected from an alkoxy group, an aryl group, an amide group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, a hydroxyl group, a sulfo group or a carboxyl group; Y¹ and Y² each independently represent an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a selenium atom, a dialkylmethylene group or a -CH=CH-; Ar¹ and Ar² each independently represent an aromatic hydrocarbon group and may have a substituent selected from an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a halogen atom, or an alkoxy carbonyl group; in Ar¹, the carbon atom adjacent to Y¹ and a carbon atom adjacent to said carbon atom may belong to another ring that is condensed with Ar¹; in Ar², the carbon atom adjacent to Y² and a carbon atom adjacent to said carbon atom may be members of another ring that is condensed with Ar²; X represents a counter ion necessary for neutralizing an electric charge, which is not required when the cation

moiety of the formula (a) has an anionic substituent; and Q represents a polymethine group selected from a pentamethine group, a heptamethine group or a nonamethine group comprising, in the methine chain thereof, three consecutive carbon atoms that are members of a cyclohexene ring or a cyclopentene ring.

16. (New): The positive image forming material according to claim 8, further comprising a resin intermediate layer between the substrate and the positive image forming layer.